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*Office Memorandum* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Beresford

DATE: 13 Aug 1956

FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

**\*DOC Exemption Letter In EUR File\***

SUBJECT: Proposed Working Group on CHINCOM Exceptions

1. I received the attached memo authorizing the establishment of the Working Group on Chincom Exceptions at 4 pm on Thursday, 2 August. I immediately tried to reach Mr. Berger but he was not in. I reached him on Friday morning about 9:15 a.m. and was surprised when he requested me to delay issuing the memorandum establishing the Working Group because he said he wished to do some further checking.

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2. Following this conversation I briefed [REDACTED] (as the proposed CIA member of the Working Group) on my conversation with Mr. Berger and asked her whether she could give me any background on the situation. She said she assumed since Mr. Berger had worked closely with the EDAC W.G. I Far Eastern Economic Defense Panel, that there was some conflict possibly in his assuming the chairmanship of an EDIC committee to work on the same area, or else that he thought FEEDPAN should do the job. [REDACTED] was briefed at the same time and assisted in filling in the background on this.

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3. I checked with [REDACTED] at his home to see whether there was any special reason why he wished to have the memo issued establishing the EDIC Working Group. He authorized me to hold up on issuing the announcement. He said he did not wish to press the matter with Mr. Berger at the moment, if Mr. B. preferred not to have the group established just now -- or if there were further matters to be resolved on it. He pointed out that it wouldn't do any good to have the W.G. unless we had the cooperation of the participants.

4. On Monday, 6 August, Mr. Hal Levin, Chairman of EDAC W.G. I, called to request me not to issue the announcement re. the establishment of the Working Group. He said that a directive was coming from the Randall Committee (CFEP) relating to the China area which EDAC planned to discuss later in the week. He said there would be an assignment of responsibilities from EDAC in this connection and that he thought it would be better to wait until after this was decided before setting up any new working group. He pointed out that W.G. I was already satisfying minimum requirements on CHINCOM exceptions data by a monthly series of documents which EDAC W.G. I was putting out. (WG I Doc 33.4). Mr. Levin said he did not think a Commerce representative should be chairman of the EDIC group if analysis and mobilization of intelligence resources relating to CHINCOM Exceptions was the objective of the EDIC W.G. I told Mr. Levin that I would hold up putting out the announcement memo until the situation was clarified.

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